



MASS *in Motion*

Summer 2017

Newsletter of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents

Learning

Living

Leading



February 1 - 2, 2018 Winnipeg Convention Centre

NB: MASS will provide a discounted registration fee for members attending both the January 31 Pre-Conference Members Meet and the DisruptED Conference (February 1 and 2) or the ASCD Event (February 1)

Plan Ahead CASSA Summer 2018 July 4 - 6, 2018 OTTAWA



The CASSA Board now has representation from every province and territory - a truly national voice for education in Canada.

Manitoba has 4 members on the Board:

Reg Klassen
Mike Borgfjord
Brett Lough
Ken Klassen

President Elect
AASA Western Rep
MASS Manitoba Rep
MASS Manitoba Rep

Nearly 20 MASS members attended CASSA this July in Halifax, with a number of high-powered presentations being presented by Manitobans. **Plan now to attend next year in Ottawa - and seriously consider presenting what you are accomplishing in your school division!**

MASS Members Pre-Conference Meet

Joel Semeniuk

Educational Disruption: The Fourth Revolution

January 31, 2018

Delta Hotel, Winnipeg

3:00 - 5:00 Table Groups
5:00 - 6:00 Reception
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
7:30 - 8:30 Keynote
9:30 - 11:00 Hospitality Room

Mark Your Calendars

2017



MASS Summer Institute 2017

Elkhorn Resort
Wednesday to Friday, August 16 - 18, 2017
Simon Breakspear - Agile Leadership
One Day Session in Winnipeg, August 16

MASS Fall Members Meet

Winnipeg Hilton Airport, Friday, October 6, 2017

Paul Chappell
Peace Literacy: Skills and Leadership
Reception and Launch

MTS Auditorium, October 18, 2017,
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**MASS is currently collaborating with educational partners in the planning of this event - some details may be subject to change*

2018

Leadership Development Module

Canad Inns Fort Garry
Thursday and Friday, January 11 - 12, 2018

MASS Members Pre-Conference Meet

Joel Semeniuk
Legacy Centre, Winnipeg
Wednesday, January 31, 2018

DisruptED
Winnipeg Convention Centre
February 1 - 2, 2018

Leadership Development Module

Venue TBA
Thursday and Friday, April 19 - 20, 2018

Peace Literacy: Skills and Leadership Workshop

Paul Chappell
Venue TBA, April 26 - 27 2018

**MASS is currently collaborating with educational partners in the planning of this event - some details may be subject to change*

MASS AGM and Recognition Banquet

Thursday, May 17, 2018
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg

MASS Summer Institute 2018
Lakeview Hecla Resort August 14 - 17



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Ken Klassen Executive Director
Karen Wohlgemuth Executive Assistant

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karen.wohlgemuth@7oaks.org

From the President 2017 - 2018



Donna Davidson
MASS President
2017 - 2018

Welcome to the summer edition of the MASS in Motion newsletter. I look forward to serving as your 2017-2018 MASS president. Fulfilling the role of president requires the work of a great team. As I enter this new role on the executive, I take great comfort in knowing that we have fantastic staff and members who work tirelessly for this organization and when called upon, "step up to the plate" without hesitation.

The three focus areas of MASS – Indigenous Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Early Childhood – are areas that require our undivided attention. It is incumbent upon us to ensure Manitoba schools infuse Indigenous perspectives into our curricula. We need to educate our youth on the vital role Indigenous people played in our history; and we must go deeper than dream catchers and teepees. We need to guarantee Aboriginal ways of knowing and being are a part of our students' educational experiences. To do this requires including the voice of Indigenous people in all aspects of the system; increasing the presence of Indigenous languages, cultures, and histories in curricula; and providing leadership and informed practice.

Students' mental health and wellbeing are critical to their success as human beings, as was so powerfully demonstrated by the student group at the annual general meeting of the Manitoba School Boards Association, this March. One by one, the students stressed the importance of feeling a sense of belonging, the importance of being accepted for who they are, and the importance of the system focusing on more than just grades. More and more youth are demonstrating high levels of anxiety

and depression. The skills necessary for students to thrive in today's high-stress, changing and fast-paced world are what some would call the "soft skills." Research is showing that the important skills for school and life satisfaction are these so called soft skills. Our role as leaders is to ensure the "soft skills" hold an honourable place in our students' educational experience.

The first five years of a child's life are critical to the child's intellectual growth. As articulated in its Position Paper on Early Childhood Education and Care, MASS is committed to its vision of high quality, systemic early childhood education and programming that is equitable and accessible for all Manitoba children and their families. The report goes on to say, "Studies show that children who enter kindergarten with a higher skill set generally experience fewer grade repetitions, on-time graduation, lower dropout rates and higher post-secondary attendance than those that enter with vulnerabilities." We know this, yet high quality programming is not available for all children, especially for those that need it most. In its position paper, MASS is asking all stakeholders to become involved and move from knowing the benefits of early learning programs to providing high quality learning programs for all children.

As your president, I wish to lead this organization with my head, my hands and my heart as it continues to move the Indigenous Education, Mental Health and Wellness and Early Childhood Education agendas forward. We have made great progress on these fronts and we still have work to do.

MASS in Motion Together We are Stronger

Together we are stronger, and get more done!

My last two annual reports to members have basically consisted of the myriad of events and initiatives in which MASS has collaborated with our educational partners - learning, advocating and acting together to further the cause of a high quality and highly equitable public education system in Manitoba.

Almost nothing we do anymore is done in isolation - as partners with other educational and community organizations, we share high quality professional development offerings and jointly advocate for real progress in such critical areas as Indigenous education, mental health and wellbeing, early childhood learning, poverty reduction and recognition and celebration of all forms of diversity in our community.

Looking ahead to the coming year, it seems that the spirit of collaboration is only getting stronger:

MASS, MSBA, MTS, MASBO and MAPC now meet regularly and formally to discuss common concerns and action. The result of these meetings has been joint advocacy by way of letters signed by all 5 major educational partners. These meetings also help avoid duplication in action and events and often lead to further and deeper collaboration on events that might otherwise have only applied to one partner group. Another reason for the regular meetings is to prepare for regular quarterly meetings this group has with the Minister of Education, where we can address common concerns with one voice.

MASS has chosen to make many of its professional development offerings more responsive to other groups and to try to avoid competition in an area where many new and worthwhile offerings are filling up the calendar - an example of this is the restructuring of what was traditionally a MASS November Conference for members only.

MASS is piloting an approach that hopes to preserve some of the intimacy of a MASS members only event, while reaching out to community partners in a new way. Although MASS is collaborating with DisruptEd to offer a February conference which will include any and all, we hope to preserve the members only element by offering a pre-conference day on January 31 - with members then being free to register for either DisruptEd or the ASCD session on February 1.

Our summer institute this year is another example of balancing the needs of members while reaching out to the community. Simon Breakspear will present his message to almost 200 educators in Winnipeg as a lead-up day to the MASS Summer Institute, which can accommodate a much smaller group of mostly MASS members.

MASS continues to meet regularly on an inter-organizational committee of Indigenous education committees, with representation from all 5 educational partners and the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate - and this will continue in the coming year. We will build on our joint field trip to Sagkeeng First Nation and continue to explore a shared vision for reconciliation with the leadership of our Indigenous partners.

In the area of mental health, wellness and wellbeing, our ongoing partnership with Thomas Falkenberg and the research group at the University of Manitoba will move to the next level, as we meet with Rob Santos, our Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, to discuss how the concepts being developed could be operationalized in assessment and reporting in Manitoba. It is expected that MASS and its members will play a major role in this work in the coming years.

And another collaboration that will continue to bear fruit this year is our work with the Social Justice Coalition. Together with the SJC, our educational partners and the department, we are exploring the possibility of bringing Paul Chappell to Manitoba for two related events - an invitational evening in October and a two-day seminar in April - to deepen our learning in the area of Peace Literacy.

We truly have a unique opportunity in Manitoba to be stronger as an organization and to get more done for our students in many different areas - by embracing the spirit and will to collaborate that is shared widely by our education and community partners.

Regards,



Ken Klassen
Executive Director
MASS

MASS Says "Farewell" to Our Retirees / Life Members

Hazen Barrett
Pauline Bouchard-Lafond
Brian Gouriluk
Dean Grove
Scott Kwasnitsa
Mike Mauws

MASS Welcomes New Members

Joined During 2016 - 17

Grant Butler
Director - Rolling River SD

Lynn Cory
Director - Southwest Horizon SD

Todd Cuddington
Superintendent - Portage La Prairie SD

Pam Garnham
Assistant Superintendent - Portage La Prairie SD

Bruce Lyons
Superintendent - Pine Creek SD

Lisa Martin
Director - Rolling River SD

Ray Karasevich (associate)
Interim President MITT

And new for 2017/18

Brad Curtis
Superintendent - Red River Valley SD

Tammy Ballantyne
Assistant Superintendent - Flin Flon SD

April Krahn
Assistant Superintendent - Frontier SD

Jerret Long
Assistant Superintendent - Lord Selkirk SD

MASS Congratulates Members in New Positions

Michelle Polinuk
Superintendent - Lord Selkirk SD

Long Service Awards 5 Years

Louise Gauthier
Louise Legal-Perrin
Tyson MacGillivray
Doreen Prazak
Clark Hagan
Rochelle Rands
Terry Osiowy
Darren Skog
Gwen Birse

10 Years

Marco Ratté
Todd Monster
Randy Dueck
Chris Gudziunas
Julie Millar

15 Years

Dean Grove

MASS Committees and Chairs 2017 - 2018

MASS Executive

Table Officers:

President
Vice President
Second Vice President
Treasurer
Past President

Donna Davidson
Duane Brothers
Cyndy Kutzner
Pauline Clarke
Brett Lough

Mountain View
Louis Riel
Western
Winnipeg
St. James Assiniboia

Regional Directors:

Metro
Metro
Metro
North
Southwestern
South Central
Southeast Interlake

Jason Drysdale
Verland Force
Susan Schmidt
Julia McKay
Jason Young
Keith Murray
Randy Dueck

River East Transcona
Seven Oaks
Pembina Trails
Kelsey
Beautiful Plains
Prairie Spirit
Hanover

Members at Large:

Leanne Peters
Celia Caetano-Gomes

Lakeshore
Winnipeg

Committee Chairs

Focus Committees:

Early Childhood Education
Indigenous Education
Mental Health and Wellbeing

René Dequier
Lorie Henderson
Verland Force

DSFM
Mystery Lake
Seven Oaks

Standing Committees:

Curriculum
Finance and Legislation
Leadership Development
Professional Learning
Public Relations,
Member Services and Policy

Randy Dueck
Jason Young
Susan Schmidt
Leanne Peters
Celia Caetano-Gomes

Hanover
Beautiful Plains
Pembina Trails
Lakeshore
Winnipeg

Regional Chairs

Metro
North
Southwestern
South Central
Southeast Interlake

Brett Lough
Julia McKay
Greg Malazdrewicz
Terry Osiowy
Randy Dueck

St. James Assiniboia
Kelsey
Brandon
Prairie Rose
Hanover

MASS Staff

Executive Director
Executive Assistant
MASS Mentor

Ken Klassen
Karen Wohlgemuth
Paul Cuthbert

Scheduled Executive Committee Meetings

Friday,	September 8,	2017	Louis Riel SD Board Room
Friday,	October 13,	2017	Louis Riel SD Board Room
Friday,	December 8	2017	Louis Riel SD Board Room
Friday,	February 9,	2018	Louis Riel SD Board Room
Wednesday,	March 14,	2018	Delta Hotel
Friday,	April 13,	2018	Louis Riel SD Board Room
Friday,	June 8,	2018	Louis Riel SD Board Room

MASS has moved to the Louis Riel Administration Building

NEW mailing address: 900 St Mary's Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2M 3R3

Same telephone number: 204.487.7972

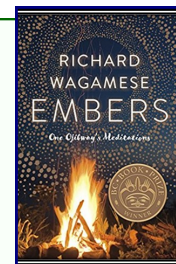
New e-mail addresses are in the works - until then please continue to use the existing

ken.klassen@7oaks.org

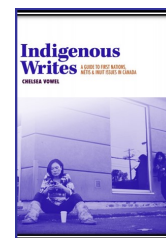
karen.wohlgemuth@7oaks.org

MASS Book Club Selections 2017 - 2018

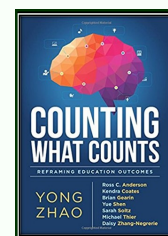
In *Embers*, this carefully curated selection of everyday reflections, **Richard Wagamese** finds lessons in both the mundane and sublime as he muses on the universe, drawing inspiration from working in the bush - sawing and cutting and stacking wood for winter as well as the smudge ceremony to bring him closer to the Creator. *Embers* is perhaps Richard Wagamese's most personal volume to date. Honest, evocative and articulate, he explores the various manifestations of grief, joy, recovery, beauty, gratitude, physicality and spirituality – concepts many find hard to express. But for Wagamese, spirituality is multifaceted. Within these pages, readers will find hard-won and concrete wisdom on how to feel the joy in the everyday things. Wagamese does not seek to be a teacher or guru, but these observations made along his own journey to become, as he says, "a spiritual bad-ass," make inspiring reading.



In *Indigenous Writes*, **Chelsea Vowel**, legal scholar, teacher, and intellectual, opens an important dialogue about these social beliefs associated with the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada. In 31 essays, Chelsea explores the Indigenous experience from the time of contact to the present, through five categories – Terminology of Relationships; Culture and Identity; Myth-Busting; State Violence; and Land, Learning, Law, and Treaties. She answers the questions that many people have on these topics to spark further conversations at home, in the classroom, and in the larger community.

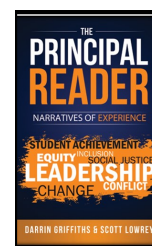


In his new book, *Counting What Counts: Reframing Education Outcomes*, **Dr. Yong Zhao** challenges our current approach to student success measurement and proposes a new paradigm, one that is focused on personalized and authentic learning. Overemphasizing test scores as measures of achievement is potentially harmful to education. The contributors identify key traits such as mindset, motivation, social skills, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit that students, teachers, and schools need to acknowledge and cultivate. Educators are asked to shift the evaluation paradigm to focus on a multiplicity of skills necessary for success in the 21st century.



A book written by school leaders for school leaders!

In *The Principal Reader*, **Darrin Griffiths and Scott Lowrey** speak directly to aspiring, novice, and experienced school leaders. The book features 56 leadership narratives from practising school leaders from the United States and Canada on topics such as: leadership theories in practice; confronting the status quo; improving instruction; reconciliation through education; leading through adversity; the challenge of change; fostering collaborative learning cultures; and social justice.



MASS JOURNAL Spring 2017

Articles by:

- Ken Klassen
- Terry Price
- Jan Stewart
- Charlene Bearhead
- Duane Brothers
- Laura Sims
- Raymond Sokalski
- Dianne Redsky
- Suzi Friesen
- Vinh Huynh
- Anne Kresta
- Celina Dumas

Special Conference Edition



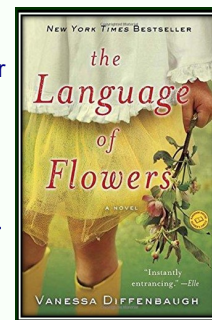
Coming Soon: Fall 2017 Student Voice Student Action

Read Online at: Mass.mb.ca/Resources/Mass-Journal

Request additional hard copies from:
Karen.wohlgemuth@7oaks.org

"Anyone can grow into something beautiful."

In *The Language of Flowers*, **Vanessa Diffenbaugh** uses the Victorian language of flowers to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, aster for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own.



Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes that she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market inspires her to question what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.